UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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ANADROMOUS FISH ACT WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS, INTERIOR REPORTS

Far-reaching benefits to the Nation's sport and commercial fisheries will result from legislation recently signed into law by President Johnson, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

Public Law 89-304, the National Anadromous Fishery Program Act, authorizes cooperative projects between the Federal Government and the various States to conserve and enhance America's fisheries for salmon, shad, striped bass, and other anadromous fish that live in the sea or Great Lakes, and migrate up streams to spawn.

The Act authorizes future appropriations not to exceed \$25 million for the period ending June 30, 1970. Not more than \$1 million could be obligated in any one fiscal year in any one State. Funds for financing the cooperative program have yet to be appropriated by Congress.

Projects authorized under the law include investigations and research into anadromous fish problems "as may be desirable to carry out the program." These include improving access to spawning areas; construction and operation of facilities to improve feeding and spawning conditions; improving facilities for free migration of fish; and construction and operation of fish hatcheries.

Work under the anadromous fish program will be covered by agreements between the Secretary of the Interior and a State or several States acting jointly. These agreements will describe the actions to be taken by the cooperating agencies, benefits expected, estimated costs, the Federal share of the costs which cannot exceed 50 percent of the total, duration of the agreement, and conditions for disposing of any property acquired by the Secretary following termination of the project.

Representatives of the Department of the Interior in the near future will confer with directors of State fish and game departments concerning proposed cooperative agreements, Secretary Udall said.